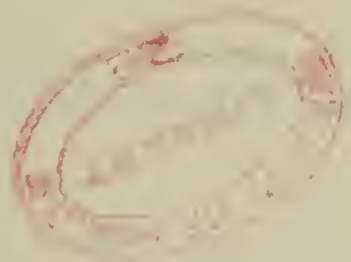


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LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER, 1944.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for
the Year ending 31st. December, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health - Herbert Newsome, M.B., B.S.,
Sanitary Inspector - E. T. H. Hawkins, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
2nd. Sanitary Inspector - B. Barker, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the District during the past year. The information therein is, as far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Minister of Health, as laid down in Circular 2773, dated March, 1943.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area:- 46,515 acres.
Population (Census 1931):- 20,378.
" (Registrar General's estimate
to the middle of 1944):- 22,810.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1944):- 6501.
Rateable Value:- £177,329.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate:- £740.

There are no important changes to note as regards the social conditions and general characteristics of the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.	Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated population)
<u>Live Births:-</u> Legitimate.....	225	193	418	
Illegitimate....	9	14	23	
Totals....	234	207	441	19.3

	M.	F.	Total.	Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births - 30.7
<u>Still Births:-</u> Legitimate.....	9	5	14	
Illegitimate....	-	-	-	
Totals....	9	5	14	

<u>Deaths:-</u>	M.	F.	Total	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population - 10.3.
	110	125	235	

Deaths from Puerperal causes:- Puerperal sepsisNil.
Other puerperal causes....Nil.

	M.	F.	Total.
<u>Death rates of Infants under 1 year of age:-</u> Total deaths -	4.	4.	8.
" " " all infants per 1,000 live births.....	18.1		
" " " legitimate infants per 1,000 live births.....	18.1		
" " " illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	Nil.		

<u>Ages of Deaths of Infants:-</u>	
Under 1 week.....	3
1 to 4 weeks.....	1
1 to 6 months	3
6 to 12 months	1
Total	8

Deaths from Measles (all ages):-Nil
" " Cancer (all ages):- 34
" " Whooping Cough (all ages):-Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age:- 1

The total number of births (441) is considerably larger than last year (358).
The birth rate (19.3) is a great improvement on last year (14.94).
" " " " for England and Wales is 17.6.

The total number of deaths (235) is less than last year (277).
" death rate (10.3) is lower than last year (11.13).
" " " " for England and Wales is 11.6.

The infant mortality rate (18.1) is very much lower than last year (41.8).
" " " " for England and Wales is 46.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis (respiratory)	7	Syphilitic diseases	2
" (other forms)	1	Diabetes	3
Influenza	2	Ulcer of stomach and deudenum	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Bronchitis	13	Other digestive diseases.	4
Other respiratory diseases	4	Nephritis	8
Cancer (all forms)	34	Congenital disease and premature birth)	3
Intercranial vascular lesions	30		
Heart diseases	75	Suicide	4
Other diseases of circulatory system)	4	Road traffic accidents	3
Acute infective encephalitis	1	Other violent causes	6
		All other causes	22

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Notifications.</u>	<u>Removals to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	39	28	Nil
Diphtheria	4	4	Nil
Erysipelas	9	2	Nil
Pneumonia	11	5	6
Dysentery	1	-	Nil
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	2	Nil
Puerperal pyrexia	3	-	Nil
Enteric fever (Paratyphoid)	2	2	Nil
Undulating fever	1	1	Nil
Measles	11	-	Nil
Whooping Cough	137	-	Nil
Totals	220	44	6

There have been fewer scarlet fever and diphtheria notifications, and the heavy measles outbreak of 1943 has quite abated. It is interesting to note that apart from pneumonia, there have been no deaths from notifiable diseases. The only disease in which notifications exceed those of 1943, is whooping cough, the outbreak of which started towards the end of last year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Reasonable good progress has been made in the effort to obtain immunisation of the whole of the children under 15 years of age. Children under school age (up to 5 years) are inoculated by private practitioners, the prophylactic serum being supplied by the County Authority, free of charge. Children over 5 years of age are dealt with by the County School Medical Officers.

	<u>School Children.</u>	<u>Under School Age.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of children immunised during this year ...	71	328	399
Total No's. during 1942 and 1943 were ...	253	717	970

A campaign to stimulate interest in the effort to obtain a large percentage of immunisation against this disease is to be carried out throughout the Country in 1945.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notifications	10	12	3	2	27
Removals to Sanatoria ...	4	5	2	-	11
Deaths	3	4	-	1	8

Notifications and deaths in age periods.

Age periods	Notifications.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1st year								
1 to 5 years				1				
5 to 15 "		1	2					
15 to 25 "	6	5	1		1	2		
25 to 35 "	1	2			1			
35 to 45 "	2	3		1	1	1		
45 to 55 "		1						
55 to 65 "	1					1		1
65 and over								
Totals	10	12	3	2	3	4		1

The number of notifications is 7 fewer and the deaths 6 fewer than in 1943. Health visiting and sanatorium treatment, and tuberculosis dispensaries are under the control of the County Authority. Dispensaries for this area are at Bristol (Central Clinic, Tower Hill) and at Clevedon. There appears to be a considerable shortage of sanatorium beds available in the County, judging by the long periods of waiting by notified cases before admission to a sanatorium. There has been no necessity to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Acts and Regulations (1925) as notification is satisfactory.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A list of members of the Public Health staff is given at the commencement of this report. Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Authority at the County Hall, Taunton, and also for certain urgent cases at the Bristol Public Health Department, Whatley Hall, Clifton. Hospital treatment for cases of infectious diseases is provided at the Bristol Infectious Diseases Hospital, by arrangement with the Bristol Health Authority.

There is no change to report in such matters as ambulance facilities, nursing in the home, treatment centres and clinics, or hospitals, public and voluntary.

Legislation in the area is also unchanged.

WATER SUPPLY.

The information required by the Ministry of Health as to the quality and sufficiency of the water supply of the District and of its several parts, results of analyses, and action in respect of contamination, is set out below in the various parishes.

There has been no appreciable shortage of water in the District during the year and no important extensions of water mains have been carried out.

WATER SUPPLY (Contd).

All public supplies owned by the Council and also some privately owned piped supplies were bacteriologically examined at intervals during the year.

Forty-one samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken and examined at the County Laboratory.

Abbots Leigh. Most of this parish is supplied with a constant supply by the Bristol Waterworks Company. Negotiations are proceeding with this Company for a post-war extension of their mains to a few houses on the Pill Road, and to the Blackmoor Road area. The water supply to the latter area is very unsatisfactory, one house obtaining its supply from a piped watercourse.

Backwell. The Farleigh, Backwell, West Town, and Church Town portions of this parish are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company, the supply being constant.

The Backwell Common and Backwell Bow portion, consisting of about twenty-five houses depend on wells, the quality of some of which is unsatisfactory. A supply of water by a main extension to this area is one of the Council's post-war schemes and negotiations are proceeding with the Bristol Waterworks Company.

A small group of dwellings at Backwell Hill is dependent on rainwater supplies. Further development in this area is strictly controlled by town planning provisions.

The hamlet of downside is supplied from the Axbridge Rural District Council's mains, six houses having a supply laid on, and the remainder obtaining water from two standpipes.

Barrow Gurney. A group of houses in the village has a piped supply from the Bristol Waterworks Company. The supply in the remainder of the parish is from wells and rainwater tanks.

The supply to the Barrow Hill and Bridgwater Road area, which comprises a few milk producing farms, is insufficient, being chiefly from wells which tend to give out in summer. An extension of main to this area is one of the Council's post-war schemes and negotiations are proceeding with the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Bishopsworth. The whole of this parish, with the exception of a few outlying houses, is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company, the supply being constant.

Brockley. The majority of the houses obtain the Bristol Waterworks Company's supply.

Clapton-in-Gordano. A few houses at Cadbury Camp Lane are supplied by a private undertaking known as the Cadbury Water Company, the water being pumped to an overhead storage tank by means of a windmill pump at the Clevedon Water Company's reservoir at Cadbury Camp Lane. The supply is limited.

The remainder of the parish is supplied by wells and rainwater supplies. The Rodwell in the village is maintained by the Council, the supply being derived from springs, and householders obtain their water from a pump fitted to the collecting tank. Three samples of this water were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, two of which showed the water to be slightly contaminated.

This parish is within the Statutory Area of the Portishead Water Company.

Dundry. The greater portion of this parish depends on wells, etc., some of these being of doubtful purity. A few houses at Highridge Common have the Bristol Waterworks Company's supply.

The four Council houses and an adjoining house are supplied from a deep borehole on the site. A small R.A.F. installation also takes a supply from this source, Bacteriological examination of this supply shows the water to be satisfactory.

The existing well supplies, particularly to houses in the the Bridgwater Road and Dundry Lane areas, are unsatisfactory and the provision of a piped supply to this parish is included in the Council's post-war schemes. This parish is not within the statutory area of a public water undertakings, and negotiations are proceeding with the Bristol Waterworks Company for a bulk supply, whilst the possibility of obtaining a supply from a local source in the area is also being exploited.

Efforts were made during the year to purify one or two private wells in the Bridgwater Road area, but little success resulted.

Easton-in-Gordano. The major portion of the parish is supplied by the Portishead Water Company, the supply being constant.

The Markham and Haberfield area, consisting of about eighteen houses and depending on rainwater and wells, suffers from periodical shortage. Application by the Portishead Water Company was made to the Ministry of Health for sanction to extend their main to this area, but the Minister was unable to authorise the scheme at the present time owing to the position with regard to the availability of labour, but that he was prepared to reconsider the Company's application when the labour position was less acute.

A few houses at Pill obtain a supply of water from the Pond Head Spout, where many thousands of gallons of water per day from a piped spring supply is running to waste. Two samples of this water examined bacteriologically were unsatisfactory, but not to a marked degree.

Flax Bourton. This parish is supplied with a constant supply by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Kenn. The Clevedon Water Company supplies the village portion of this parish, the supply being constant, whilst the remainder of the area depends on shallow wells and rainwater.

The well supply to the four Council houses became badly contaminated and water had to be hauled daily from the Council's Yatton supply. A scheme is being prepared to provide a main supply to these houses and a few other houses en route, either from the Council's Yatton Parochial supply or from the Clevedon Water Company.

Kingston Seymour. This parish has no piped supply and the whole area, which is scattered and consists of many milk producing farms, is dependent on shallow wells of doubtful purity.

The provision of a main supply to this area is included in the Council's post-war water schemes and a scheme has been prepared for an extension of the mains of the Yatton Parochial supply.

Long Ashton. The whole of this parish, with the exception of a few outlying houses, receives a constant supply from the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Nailsea. The major portion is supplied with a constant supply by the Bristol waterworks Company.

Negotiations are proceeding with this Company for post-war main extensions to the West End and The Grove areas of the parish.

About thirty houses at Bucklands Batch have a piped supply from an old colliery shaft which is owned by a private undertaking. Samples for bacteriological examination are taken periodically but the results are not always too satisfactory.

North Weston. The Redcliffe Bay area is served by standpipes, the water being obtained by the Redcliffe Bay Mutual Bungalow Association from the Portishead Water Company, the members of the Association being supplied with standpipe keys. None of the bungalows have the supply, which is limited by the size of the main, laid on. It is intended as a drinking supply only to augment the supply by wells and rainwater cisterns. This area, which is in the statutory area of the Portishead Water Company, is in need of an improved supply of main water laid on to the dwellings, and should be considered as one of the Council's post-war water schemes, but not necessarily as one of the first schemes.

The North Weston Village and Honeylands area is served with a constant supply by the Portishead water Company.

A small group of houses near the Black Rock Quarries take a supply from a private borehole. No complaints have been received as to the sufficiency and wholesomeness of this supply.

The portion of the parish situated in the village of Weston-in-Gordano has a supply from the Council's Weston-in-Gordano supply.

The few remaining dwellings, the largest group of these being about twenty bungalows at Nightingale Valley Road, Redcliffe Bay, are dependent on wells and rainwater cisterns. It is possible, however, that this group of houses would be included in any scheme for an improved supply to Redcliffe Bay.

Portbury. The village, Portishead Road, and a few other houses are supplied with a constant supply by the Portishead Water Company. The remainder of the parish is supplied by wells, springs and rainwater cisterns.

Tickenham. The greater portion of the parish is supplied by the Clevedon Water Company, the supply being constant with the exception of that to a small number of houses near West Hill where the supply has a tendency to be intermittent. Sickness amongst several of the occupants of one of these houses was found to be caused by the accumulated effect of zinc from a new water storage tank which had been provided for the purpose of storing the intermittent supply.

A small number of houses at Cadbury Camp Road are supplied by the Cadbury Water Company which is mentioned under the Parish of Clapton-in-Gordano.

Walton-in-Gordano. The village has a piped supply from the Walton Estate Supply, the source of the supply being derived from springs near the Clevedon Golf Course. The Walton Bay area which consists chiefly of week-end bungalows is dependent on wells, rainwater, etc.

Weston-in-Gordano. The village is supplied with a constant supply from the Council's mains, the supply being obtained by meter from the Walton Estate Supply.

The water, which is not treated, is examined bacteriologically at intervals, and on occasions a sample shows the water to be slightly contaminated.

Winford. The Felton, Potter's Hill, Kingdown, and Winford portions of the parish have a constant piped supply from the Council's borehole at Felton. The supply, which is untreated, is analysed at intervals, and has always been free from contamination.

The remainder of the parish is supplied by wells, many of them of doubtful purity. Several of these wells adjacent to the village of Winford went dry during the year and householders obtained a supply from standpipes on the piped supply in the village.

Wraxall. The village and Sixty Acres area have a constant piped supply from the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Houses on the Tyntesfield Estate are supplied by a piped service derived from a spring source, whilst a few dwellings at Lodge Lane have a piped supply from an old colliery shaft. This latter supply has always been bacteriologically pure when sampled.

Yatton. This parish, comprising Yatton, Claverham, and Cleeve, is served by the Council's Yatton Parochial supply, the water being obtained from a borehole at Claverham. The supply is chlorinated at the source and samples taken of the treated water have proved the water to be satisfactory.

A scheme to provide additional storage capacity with additional pumping facilities is being considered.

A few houses and farms at Hewish are supplied with a piped service from the Axbridge Rural District Council's mains.

Particulars of the proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from public water mains by (a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of standpipes, are given on the following page.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Area in Acres.</u>	<u>Approximate Population at 31/3/44.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied direct from mains.</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied from standpipes.</u>	<u>Percentage of population supplied direct from mains.</u>	<u>Percentage of population supplied from standpipes.</u>
Abbots Leigh	2260	698	157	140	-	89.3	-
Backwell	2929	1913	539	377	26	69.7	4.8
Barrow Gurney	2064	332	99	26	10	26.5	3.0
Bishopsworth	796	2251	582	545	20	92.0	3.3
Brockley	1148	138	53	43	-	81.1	-
Clapton-in-Gordano	1355	177	61	7	-	10.7	-
Dundry	2897	842	240	13	-	5.4	-
Easton-in-Gordano	1765	2094	725	616	46	82.3	6.1
Flax Bourton	630	190	62	51	3	80.5	4.7
Kenn	830	258	65	24	-	36.4	-
Kingston Seymour	2652	240	59	2	1	3.3	1.6
Long Ashton	4190	2476	820	770	19	93.2	2.3
Nealsea	286	2483	703	389	25	54.8	3.5
North Weston	1063	1073	460	35	240	7.3	51.4
Portbury	2845	418	125	67	6	52.8	4.7
Tickenham	1629	591	185	148	4	80.0	2.2
Walton-in-Gordano	908	232	94	30	-	32.3	-
Weston-in-Gordano	708	123	39	13	14	32.5	34.9
Winford	3340	1032	284	121	25	42.2	8.7
Wrexall	4125	1364	345	260	-	74.3	-
Yatton	5602	2806	800	751	27	93.6	3.3

SEWERAGE and SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Yatton. The sewage pumping station and sewers were again subject to severe flooding and surcharging during a period of very heavy rain, the existing pumping machinery and rising main being unable to cope with the flood water.

The Council's engineers were instructed to carry out an examination of the sewers with a view to preventing the entry of surface water, and also to consider the question of installing additional pumping machinery.

A post-war scheme for an extension of the sewer to a portion of the Cleeve area is in course of preparation but it would appear that the question of dealing with the existing flow of sewage in rainy periods would need to be satisfactorily dealt with before any appreciable increase in the number of additional houses connected to the system is effected. There is also the fact that the parish of Yatton may be a likely locality for the building of a considerable number of post-war houses.

Backwell. The sewage works have continued to function satisfactorily and a good standard of effluent has been maintained whilst the works have been receiving the normal flow of sewage.

During the war years, however, an American Army camp at Brockley, capable of housing a thousand men, was connected to this sewage system, with the result that the sewage works became overloaded and the standard of effluent became very low. By arrangement with the Military Authorities, chlorination of the effluent was resorted to, the cost of this and other incidental work being borne by them.

North Weston. This small sewage works has continued to work satisfactorily and no trouble has been experienced.

Long Ashton and Bishopsworth. Except for a few occasional blockages, these sewers which discharged into the Bristol Corporation sewers, have continued to work satisfactorily.

Pill. A portion of these sewers were laid at a low gradient and which discharge into the River Avon are inclined on occasions to become blocked by silting up and consideration to the renewal of a portion of the Pill sewage system will probably be required at some future date.

Post War Sewage Schemes.

The following parishes and areas should in my opinion, receive consideration by the Council in the post war years, for main drainage:-

- (1) Cleeve. A scheme for a portion of this area is in course of preparation.
- (2) Nailsea. Nuisances in this parish owing to a lack of a sewerage system are continually occurring and become more difficult to deal with by your sanitary staff as time goes on.
- (3) Weston-in-Gordano. A scheme for the village portion, which includes a small part of North Weston Parish, is in course of preparation.
- (4) Winford. A scheme for the village had been prepared prior to the war, but was deferred on account of the Bristol Waterworks Company's proposed new reservoir scheme.
- (5) Easton-in-Gordano. Cesspool nuisances occur very frequently in this area.

Post War Sewage Scheme (Contd).

- (6) Redcliffe Bay. The amenities of this built up seaside locality would be greatly improved by main drainage.
- (7) Highridge Common, Dundry. A group of twenty houses with cesspool drainage are in need of an early extension of the Bishopsworth sewer, due to the clay nature of the ground.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A rhyne at Yatton was badly polluted by the unforeseen discharge of a trade waste from a nearby factory, but the nuisance was eventually cleared by dredging the rhyne; otherwise there is nothing fresh to report as regards the condition of the streams in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT and SWIMMING BATHS and POOLS.

There is nothing fresh to report in these matters.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A monthly collection of house refuse by contract was commenced in the parish of Dundry during the year, whilst the question of instituting a collection at Walton-in-Gordano, Weston-in-Gordano, Portbury, and Clapton-in-Gordano, was in hand at the end of the year.

In view of the facilities which were afforded to householders during the war years by salvage dumps and house to house collections for the disposal of tins etc., it is anticipated that parishes without house refuse collection will be applying to the Council for this collection when the collecting of salvage ceases.

A system of refuse collection should be instituted when applied for as this is preferable to unsightly dumps scattered about the district, attracting rats and giving rise to complaints, whilst at the same time, a necessary sanitary service is being brought into being.

During the year considerable public feeling was caused by the disposal of refuse from an American Service Hospital, in a quarry in the middle of the village of Nailsea. Although the disposal of this refuse could not be considered to be a nuisance, public opinion was such, that arrangements were made with the American Hospital Authorities for the tipping to cease at this site and for the refuse to be tipped elsewhere. I wish to put on record the co-operation which was received from the American Hospital Authorities, when they might have been adamant in the matter.

The collection of house refuse is proceeding satisfactorily by contract, although it would be preferable for many reasons for the Council to have a tip, for controlled tipping, of their own in the district instead of the Contractors finding their own tips.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There has been no necessity to take any action during the year regarding infestation by bed bugs.

CAMPING SITES.

Many sites in the district, particularly in the coastal areas, are used as camping sites or as sites for moveable dwellings. Some of the sites are licenced by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936.

There appears to be a tendency for some of the caravans and moveable dwellings which came into the district during enemy air attacks, to return. On the other hand there appears to be a tendency for the number of moveable dwellings to increase, particularly in the coastal areas, and also for the permanent occupation of dwellings which were intended only for holiday and week-end occupation.

Camping Sites. (Contd.)

The sites on the whole are kept free from nuisances, but it is apparent that a more strict control will be necessary in the future especially in the Walton Bay and Redcliffe Bay areas.

SCHOOLS.

There is no change in the number of local schools, and there is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the YEAR 1944.

Inspections.	No. of Complaints received during the year	79
	No. of houses, premises, etc., inspected	356
	No. of re-visits to see that work has been carried out or for other reasons	98
	No. of houses disinfected, or to which disinfectants were supplied	25
	No. of visits to cases of infectious disease	36
	Tuberculosis:- Disinfections 11 Visits 12	
	No. of cases of bedding disinfected	21
	No. of scabies baths arranged for infected persons.	59
	No. of verminous premises cleansed	-
Sewers.	No. of new sewers laid down	-
	No. of sewers repaired or cleansed	7
	No. of visits to sewage works and installations ...	
House drains.	No. of existing houses connected to sewers	6
	No. repaired or cleansed	5
	No. of drains re-laid	-
	No. of new piped drains laid	25
Earth closets, water closets, and cesspools.	No. of privies abolished	-
	No. of cesspools re-constructed or cleansed	8
	No. of new cesspools	5
	No. of cesspools abolished	7
	No. of new water closets	13
	No. of new water closet pans or repairs	2
	No. of new earth closets constructed	-
	No. of earth closets converted into water closets..	2
New houses.	No. of new houses completed and occupied	6
	No. of new houses supplied by Company's water.....	4
	No. of new houses supplied by wells or cisterns ...	2
Water supply.	No. of samples of water taken for examination	41
	No. of existing houses supplied with Company's water	15
	No. of new wells	-
	No. of wells or cisterns cleansed or repaired	6
	No. of dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected..	136
	No. of bakehouses inspected	18
	No. of slaughterhouses inspected	-
	No. of factories inspected	6
	No. of statutory notices served	4
	Ministry of Health inquiries held	-
	Legal proceedings taken	-

HOUSING.

Four new houses were completed during the year for occupation by agricultural workers. Two of these are situate at Yanley Lane, Long Ashton, and the other pair at Clapton-in-Gordano.

There is a big deficiency of houses to meet the demand with an ever growing waiting list of applicants for Council houses. Overcrowding has lessened somewhat with the return of evacuees and other evacuated persons to the towns.

The majority of the houses subject to demolition orders are still occupied on temporary licences to approved tenants in need of housing accommodation, and it would appear that these houses will still have to be occupied for some considerable time.

The position with regard to war damaged houses is satisfactory in-as-much as the majority of the extended first aid repairs have been carried out. Six houses which were destroyed by enemy action will probably be re-built by their owners when labour and materials permit.

One building was converted into a dwelling-house by a private owner for occupation by an agricultural worker, under Circular 2871 (General Scheme for Repair, etc., of Houses). Fourteen certificates of essentiality for the repair of houses were forwarded to the Ministry of Works during the year.

The Public Health and Housing Committee are continually engaged in acquiring sites in practically all parishes for the erection of post-war houses.

House-to-house inspections of dwelling-houses was not carried out during the year but it is evident from the inspections which are made that a very large number of working-class houses are beginning to suffer badly from lack of repairs. Owners are requested to carry out the necessary repairs to keep the houses as sound and as watertight as possible for the time being. The number of complaints which are being received from occupiers regarding disrepair is increasing rapidly.

No applications for assistance under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts were made during the year.

1.- Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	46
	(under Public Health or Housing Acts)	
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	52
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	27
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	28
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	27

2.- Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... ..	16
-----	---	----

,2.-

- (b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ... Nil

3.- Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(C) Proceedings under Section 11, 13, and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 2
- (3) (a) Clearance orders made ... Nil
- (b) Number of houses involved ... Nil
- (4) Clearance orders confirmed ... Nil
- (a) Number of houses involved ... Nil
- (b) Number of houses demolished ... Nil
- (c) Number of houses to be demolished ... 34

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement of room having been made fit... Nil

FOOD.

The following food was condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Meat.

Beef	34 lbs.
Meat roll	3 tins.
Canadian Bacon	15 lbs.
Sausages	24 "
Cambridge Gallatine	7 "
Luncheon Sausage	12 "
Pressed beef	6 1/4 "
Chopped Ham	12 "

Fish.

Hake fillets	21 stones.
Smoked herring	
fillets	123 jars.
Sardines	33 tins.
Pilchards	3 "
Herrings	1 tin.

FOOD (Contd.)

Tinned Foods.

Carrots	10	tins.
Vegetable soup	3	"
Tomato soup	1	tin
Mock Turtle soup	1	"
Peas	2	tins
Baked beans	4	"
Condensed milk	13	"
Plums	1	tin
Canned tomatoes	35	tins
Jam preserve	3	"

Other Foods.

Tea	2 lbs.
Processed Cheese	8 "
Jam sandwich cakes	720
Oatmeal	1 cwt.
Sultanas	28 lbs.

Slaughter-houses. The eleven slaughter-houses, nine of which are registered and two licenced, are temporarily out of use during the period of hostilities, centralised slaughtering taking place at the Weston-super-Mare public slaughterhouse, under the control of the Ministry of Food.

MLK.

During the year 100 samples of accredited milk and 110 samples of tuberculin tested milk were taken on behalf of the County Council. 15 samples of mixed milk were also taken and examined at the County Laboratory for the presence of tubercle bacilli, which was found in none of the samples.

Several cowsheds were reconditioned during the year in consequence of the producers wishing to produce designated milk.

Two notices requiring structural alterations to premises were served on producers under the Milk and Dairies Order in consequence of the milk falling short of the standard required under the Milk Keeping Quality Control Scheme.

[illegible]EVACUATION, 1944.

During the first half of 1944 it appeared that the Government Evacuation Scheme would soon cease. The number of officially billeted persons dropped to about four hundred and fifty, e.g. ten per cent of those sent to the district in 1939. In June came the invasion of France and Flying Bombs. Very quickly evacuation from London and the Home Counties was in full swing and the number of evacuees rose quickly to approximately one thousand five hundred. They were, however, a different type to those of 1939 and no anxiety was caused through ill health. With the liberation of France many evacuees returned home and at the end of the year, despite Rocket-bombs, the numbers dropped to one thousand.

Skin diseases, which have been such a nuisance in the early days of evacuation, appear to have been cured and stamped out and in spite of the large influx of evacuees there were no outbreaks of any type and the general health was extremely good.

The Council's two hostels at Cleeve House and Moorfields functioned extremely well and the general health of the old ladies living at the Rectory, Nailsea, was remarkable, having regard to their extreme ages.

From the foregoing details it will be seen that there is nothing of outstanding importance to comment on here. Progress in remedying the serious shortage of houses is at a standstill owing to the war, though considerable work in preparing for the post-war housing programme has been done by the Housing and Sanitary Committee, by making plans and obtaining sites for houses in most of the parishes.

The same may be said of the water supply and sewage disposal of the area.

On the whole, the sanitary condition of the district continues to be as satisfactory as can reasonably be expected under war conditions and the work of the Sanitary Department has been as efficient as possible considering the shortage of staff and the difficulty of obtaining labour and materials for any but the most urgent war damage repairs.

In conclusion I have much pleasure in thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence and support always extended to me in the performance of my duties, and the officers of the Health and other Departments for their able and willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT NEWSOME.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Flax Bourton,
Bristol.

September, 1945.

